

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement Abstract:

A method and apparatus for laying an underwater pipeline are provided. The method includes the steps of constructing lengths of pipeline by endwise connection of a plurality of pipe segments (12) and securing bend restriction means (18) along the length of said lengths of pipeline. The bend restriction means (18) is arranged to prevent the lengths of pipeline from bending by more than a predetermined maximum amount. Flotation means (28) are secured to the lengths of pipeline such that the lengths of pipeline are held adjacent the surface of the ocean and the lengths of pipeline and the flotation means (28) are released from each length of pipeline so that the length of pipeline sinks to the ocean floor.